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OFFICE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL

Date of transcription 1/27/98

LINDA R. TRIPP was contacted at her residence in [REDACTED] by prior arrangement with Deputy Independent Counsel JACK BENNETT. TRIPP had initiated contact with the Office of Independent Counsel (OIC) earlier in the evening by telephoning BENNETT, at first refusing to provide her name. Also present with BENNETT were Associate Independent Counsels SOL WISENBERG and STEVE BINHAK. Beginning at approximately 11:45pm, TRIPP provided the following information:

TRIPP has been subpoenaed by an attorney for PAULA JONES, a woman pursuing a civil action against President BILL CLINTON, apparently due to published statements attributed to TRIPP concerning KATHY WILLEY. It has been reported in the media that President CLINTON engaged in certain behavior toward WILLEY, and the PAULA JONES attorneys are apparently seeking information concerning the alleged incident.

TRIPP did not seek out Newsweek magazine to provide information concerning KATHY WILLEY. Newsweek reporter MIKE ISIKOFF contacted TRIPP. TRIPP attempted to warn the White House of ISIKOFF's interest and placed a telephone call to BRUCE LINDSEY's office. TRIPP also paged LINDSEY and sent an e-mail message. Neither LINDSEY nor anyone else from the White House responded to her.

Some later time after ISIKOFF initially approached TRIPP, she told him she believed President CLINTON did not harass WILLEY during the episode mentioned in the Newsweek article. TRIPP felt WILLEY had been seeking a relationship with President CLINTON for several months prior to the episode in question. However, ISIKOFF apparently interviewed attorney BOB BENNETT (who represents President CLINTON in the PAULA JONES lawsuit) and represented to BENNETT that TRIPP confirmed unwanted attentions were directed toward WILLEY by the President during that encounter. As an apparent result, BENNETT made derogatory comments about TRIPP to ISIKOFF which were published in the Newsweek article. TRIPP feels BENNETT trashed TRIPP's name.

Investigation on 1/12/98 at [REDACTED] File # 29D-OIC-LR-35063
by SSA [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/12/98